



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

GARY HEIDEL  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: September 20, 2010

FROM: John R. Halsey *JRH*

TO: File

RE: Aggregate Industries Expansion, SE ¼, SW ¼ and SW ¼, SE ¼ of Section 1 and NE ¼, NW ¼ Section 12, T2S, R2E, Jackson Co.

On September 17, 2010, accompanied by Lisa Gamero of DNRE's Stewardship Program, I visited the area of proposed expansion by Aggregate Industries as part of a proposed land exchange with the State of Michigan. The initiating factor for this visit was a telephone report I received in the winter of 2009-2010 that there were "mounds" present in the project area. Attempts to elicit details on the locations, size, and numbers of "mounds" by telephone and mail were unfruitful.

We parked about on the south side of Green Road, about 5/8 of a mile west of its junction with Loveland Road. We took a bridle trail south and then west to a ridge crest affording a view of the Pond Lily Lake wetlands. This trail went downhill to the south. We walked a branching trail to the NW and then back returning to the car. We made several off-trail forays to the east, but the undergrowth was so dense and entangling that it was quickly apparent that this was an unproductive approach. Disturbed soil along the trail was examined for possible prehistoric cultural debris (flint chips, pottery sherds, etc.), but none was seen.

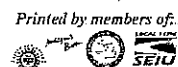
We crossed Green Road accessing a trail that ran along the crest of Prospect Hill, then some side trails, ultimately connecting with the Waterloo-Pinckney Hiking Trail which led to Loveland Road and back to the car. In my opinion the Prospect Hill crest would have been prime area for mounds and the undergrowth was relatively light, but we saw no mounds.

## CONCLUSIONS

Mounds in this part of Michigan are notably rare. Historic records indicate the presence of only three in Jackson County and five in Washtenaw County (Hinsdale 1927: Map, 1931:23, 37). One of the Jackson County features (20JA2), located many miles to the west of the project, was not even a mound, but rather a circular depression surround by a 6-inch high earthen rim. Curiously, when excavated it did produce a pottery vessel, a copper awl, and a slate gorget, but no skeletal remains (Greenman 1945:458-459; Payne 1994). Archaeologists of the early twentieth century, such as the University of Michigan's Wilbert Hinsdale, were very interested in mounds and earthworks. I believe that if there had been visible mounds in the project area, Hinsdale would have known about them, and with Ann Arbor so close, he would have visited them. Despite the fact that there was a dense understory of vegetation, I do not believe that there were any mounds to be seen in the project area and that there was no evidence seen of prehistoric occupation areas despite miles of exposed earth in the various hiking trails.



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Previously reported sites 20JA229, a findspot of a single chert flake, and 20JA259, the site of a nineteenth and twentieth century farmstead, were evaluated when this project was first reviewed in February 2006, and considered not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

References:

Greenman, Emerson F.

- 1945 The Hopewellian in the Detroit-Windsor Area. *Papers of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters* 30: 457-464.

Hinsdale, Wilbert B.

- 1927 *The Indians of Washtenaw County, Michigan*. George Wahr, Publisher, Ann Arbor, MI.

- 1931 *Archaeological Atlas of Michigan*. Michigan Handbook Series No. 4. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, MI.

Payne, James H.

- 1994 Notes on the Moeckel Farm/Buettner Mound Site (20JA2). Informal report, University of Michigan, Museum of Anthropology, Ann Arbor, MI.